

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3
LA.3.1.7.5 Form A

Anywhere on Earth



Do you ever look at maps? A map shows where places are. Often people use maps to decide what roads to travel. A map can also tell the number of miles between two places.

People look at maps to see how to get to certain places, such as a baseball field, a hospital, or a library. There are also maps that tell where to find tigers at the zoo or bumper cars at the fair. Maps can be of a town, state, country, or the entire world.

Did you know that maps also show direction? A direction tells where one place is from another. Directions are important because they tell people which way to travel. To find the right direction to go, people use a part of the map called the *compass rose*.

What is a compass rose? A compass rose is a picture that shows the four main directions. It is a circle with four pointed arrows—one on each side—almost like a star. Each point shows a direction: north, south, east, and west. These directions appear as the letters “N,” “S,” “E,” and “W.” By using the compass rose, people see that some places are north, south, east, or west of other places. The compass rose shows which direction to turn when people walk, drive, or take a train or plane from one place to another. The next time you use a map, look for the compass rose. It can show you which direction to travel.



GLOBES

A globe also shows where places are, but it is different from a map.

While a map is shown on a flat surface and has only two dimensions, like the map of Florida below, a globe has three dimensions. A map can be of many different kinds of places and shows only part of the Earth, however a globe shows all of Earth and is in the shape of a sphere.

Both maps and globes are *scale models*. That means they are not the actual size of the real object. Maps and globes are smaller than the original object.



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More About Maps

Maps can be as simple as a drawing of how to get to your best friend's house or as detailed as a map used to forecast weather.

Maps do not show everything at once. Every map has a purpose. A map can show surface features of Earth such as rivers, mountains, and lakes. It can show major roads for traveling, or state capitals and boundaries between the states.



This simple child's map shows the path to find a treasure.



This detailed U.S. government map shows the time zones in the United States.

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Name _____ **Date** _____

Directions: Read the passage and choose the correct answer.

1. How does the author organize “Anywhere on Earth”?
 - A. by listing parts of a map
 - B. by asking questions followed by facts
 - C. by comparing types of maps
 - D. by giving the steps for using a map

2. How does the section “More About Maps” help readers to BETTER understand what a map is?
 - A. by explaining how to use a map
 - B. by explaining why children draw maps
 - C. by providing additional details about maps
 - D. by listing important facts about maps in order

3. How does the author help readers to BETTER understand what a compass rose is?
 - A. by giving a detailed description of a compass rose
 - B. by explaining how to draw a compass rose
 - C. by describing where to find a compass rose
 - D. by comparing a compass rose to a circle

4. How does the author organize the text box “Globes”?
 - A. by comparing and contrasting maps and globes
 - B. by listing a topic followed by an explanation
 - C. by explaining why we use globes
 - D. by providing details on how to use a globe

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ANSWER KEY

1. How does the author organize “Anywhere on Earth”?
 - A. by listing parts of a map
 - B. by asking questions followed by facts**
 - C. by comparing types of maps
 - D. by giving the steps for using a map

2. How does the section “More About Maps” help readers to BETTER understand what a map is?
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Item #	Answer
1.	B
2.	C
3.	A
4.	A